



FALL

2009

THE TRUMPETER

BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

PRE-TDML ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (TCSWCD) suggest we begin identifying and reducing the amount of phosphorous entering the lake before our Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project is scheduled.

We can accomplish this by implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) on the shore land we control. Suggestions include: reducing the use of lawn fertilizer; creating no-mow sections, buffer zones and rain gardens near shore; avoiding disposal of grass clippings, leaves and garden waste in areas where the phosphorous generated will reach the lake (i.e. ditches, wetlands, near shore); using non-phosphorous soaps and fertilizers; preventing shoreline erosion; pre-

venting campfire ashes from entering the water; and properly maintaining Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS) or holding tanks. More information about similar items will be included in this and future newsletters and is also available on the TCSWCD, MPCA and DNR web sites.

Todd County will soon begin cataloging all shore land ISTS and holding tanks. This list will state the date of installation, type of system and date last inspected as a result of a building permit or change of ownership. This information will be important to the MPCA when determining what, if any, impact ISTS have on phosphorous levels in our lake. Commissioner Dave Kircher has offered his help in obtaining a copy when the project is complete.

MEMBERS ELECT BOARD OFFICERS

Members attending the Big Swan Lake Improvement Association meeting Aug. 29 elected Mark Brauch president of the board. He formerly served as vice president. Don Larson, former president, was elected vice president.

Also, association members elected Bonnie Alsleben treasurer. She had been serving as interim treasurer since last spring, replacing Clarence Grimli who passed away.

Members also voted to form a committee to review and update our association's constitution and bylaws. Any recommended changes will be discussed at the spring meeting and must be approved by a majority of members present.



Big Swan Lake Improvement District, Todd County Annual Meeting August 29, 2009 Hub Supper Club

The meeting was called to order @ 9 a.m. by the board chairman. All board members were present along with approximately 30 property owners and one guest, County Commissioner Dave Kircher.

The August 23, 2008 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept as written was made by Mark Brauch, second by Sheila Milner. Motion passed. The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion to accept as written was made by Sue Krippner, second by Betty Richter. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Bog Issues -- Jim Macy, representing the bog committee, stated that property owners in his area remove small migrating bogs with neighborhood help. For large bogs that need to be removed or moved for staking, the bog committee will ask LID and Association members to arrange for help with the project. All bog committee, LID and association board members will have a copy of the most recent permit listing guidelines and requirements for bog removal or staking. The LID will purchase 2 or 3 post drivers and 2x2 stakes to be available in at least 2 locations.

Grants & Donations -- The LID will continue to solicit grants and donations for various projects listed in our Establishment Order. Any funds will be used in addition to and not in place of assessed funds.

Water Monitoring -- Water monitoring continues on all 4 inlets to Big Swan Lake (BSL). Two streams are monitored by TCSWCD with MPCA funds and 2 are monitored at our expense. By year end, TCSWCD will have the software to convert our depth, width and speed of flows to gallons of water, tons of soil and pounds of chemicals entering our lake from each site.

BSL will be listed on the 2010 Impaired Waters List for excess phosphorous and Chlorophyll-a. Our goal is to make the 2011 TMDL List. When discussing the TMDL scheduling process with TCSWCD and the MPCA, we think we meet or excel in the following areas considered when scheduling a TMDL: 1. existing priorities - both local & state, 2. local agency readiness & experience, 3. basin priorities - local & state, 4. geographic distribution of MPCA funding, 5. Our 4 year participation (financially & physically) in the study of the BSL watershed, 6. Our ability to fund and desire to continue inlet monitoring in 2010.

Curlyleaf Pondweed -- Dennis Harder reported 3 areas were treated for a total of 39 acres. This was less than projected and approved but all that was identified in the May survey. A map of the treated areas was available at this meeting. The majority of property own-

ers present rated the results in this 5th year of the program as good to very good. A motion was made by Mark Brauch, second by Sue Krippner and approved to authorize Dennis Harder to contract for up to 60 acres of CLP treatment for 2010. The number and location of acres treated will be determined after a spring survey is completed by DNR and Lake Management.

New Business:

Water Monitoring -- We decided to expand our monitoring activities in 2010 based on recommendations from TCSWCD and MPCA. On a motion by Pat Masloski and second by Dennis Harder, funding for monitoring all 4 inlets was approved. The monitoring schedule will consist of a minimum of 1 per month (May thru September), spring thaw and major rain events. We will monitor water levels, flow speed, total phosphorous & TSS. The secchi disk and lake level readings will also continue. Other recommendations made by TCSWCD and MPCA were not discussed but will be covered in the Trumpeter.

Elections -- Three board members, 3-year terms, two must be full time residents. Nancy Hillman (full time resident) was nominated by Dennis Harder, second by Mark Brauch. George Brezinka (full-time resident) was renominated by Mark Brauch, second by Steve Richter. Ed Hennek (seasonal resident) was renominated by Mark Brauch, second by Dennis Harder.

A motion to close nominations was made by Mark Brauch, second by Sheila Milner. All nominations were approved.

There was no other business. A motion was made by Mark Brauch, second by Sheila Milner to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report -- Condensed Version:

8/16/08 Starting Balance - \$xxxxxx
8/16/08 thru 8/15/09 --- Income - \$xxxxxxx, Expenditures - \$xxxxxxxxx
8/15/09 Ending Balance - \$xxxxxx
8/16/08 Extraordinary Income -Starting Balance -- 0
8/16/08 thru 8/15/09 - Income \$13,857.00, Expenditures - \$xxxxxx
8/15/09 Ending Balance - \$xxxxxxx

A copy of the complete report was available at the meeting. You may receive a complete copy by sending a request to: Big Swan Lake Improvement District, P.O. Box 486, Grey Eagle, MN 56336.